

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of the disclosures of two Japanese Patent Publications. In response, independent Claim 1 has been amended as discussed below while Claims 4, 5, 13, and 14 have been cancelled. In this regard it is noted that certain additional requirements have been added to Claim 1, while certain requirements were removed and are now presented in new dependent Claim 16. As a result of the foregoing claim amendments it is believed that amended Claim 1 and all of the dependent claims are allowable for the reasons set forth below.

In particular, according to the claim requirements of amended Claim 1 a regulating portion is movably mounted on the cover of a sheet feeding apparatus, and with the opening operation of the cover (by a user) an interlocking mechanism moves the regulating portion so that a relative position of the regulating portion with respect to the cover is changed. In this regard, the invention is more advantageous than the prior art which requires a driving portion such as the motor and the solenoid.

Referring now to the cited references, neither of the Hideki and Kayzuki publications discloses a regulating portion being movably mounted on a cover. Therefore, amended Claim 1 differs in its structure from the cited references which also fail to disclose the claimed feature of an interlocking mechanism configured to interlock the regulating portion with an opening operation of the cover, wherein with the opening operation of the cover the interlocking mechanism moves the regulating portion so that a relative position of the regulating portion with respect to the cover is changed.

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Further in this regard, Hideki discloses, in [0051] - [0055], detecting that a cover 103 has been opened and then moving a stopper claw 14. However, the movement of the stopper claw 14 is performed by a drive from a calling motor. And, Kayzuki discloses, in [0027], a shutter is put into a locked-state when a cover is opened and closed. However, a regulating member 23 (see [0019]), which is actuated by a solenoid to regulate the movement the shutter is actuated. Then, the use of the regulating member 23 keeps the shutter from moving (the regulating member 23 continues to lock the shutter regardless of the opening and closing of the cover).

For these various reasons, Applicants believe that the claims as now presented are allowable over the prior art, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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